



15 December 2005

Montana Wing Observer

MISSOULA COMPOSITE SQUADRON HOSTS ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET



Mitchell recipient
Cadet 2nd Lt. David Driscoll (center) with Wing Commander Col. Jan Van Hoven and State Director Joe Macklin (above)

Missoula Composite Squadron members
(l. to r.): Major Kaye Ebelt, Cadets Chris Burke, Chris Brault, Bentley Alsup, David Driscoll, Jackson Meismer, Dale Malloy, Austin Hardy, and Captain Don Morton. (right)



Members, family, and guests of Missoula Composite Squadron gathered at a popular Missoula restaurant tonight for an evening of food, fellowship, and recognition. The private room at Johnny Carino's Country Italian Restaurant was crowded as attendees feasted on salad and pasta, followed by a decorated "Civil Air Patrol" cake. But the highlight of the evening was recognition of the achievements of Missoula Composite members. Squadron Commander Major Kaye Ebelt welcomed guests Col. Jan Van Hoven, Montana Wing Commander, as well as Wing Public Affairs Officer Maj. Doris Van Hoven and State Director Mr. Joe Macklin. Following a slide show highlighting

squadron activities over the preceding year, the presentations began. Cadet Squadron Commander David Driscoll, who soloed in a Cessna 152 last month, was awarded his CAP Solo Wings, and Wing Commander Col. Jan Van Hoven and State Director Joe Macklin presented Driscoll with the Billy Mitchell Award, the prestigious milestone that marks the transition to cadet officer rank. Other awards and recognitions included: Mountaineering Certificate: Cadets Chris Brault, David Driscoll, Jackson Meismer, Andrew Fitzgerald, and Bentley Alsup. Drownproofing Certificate: Cadets Chris Brault, Jackson Meismer, Chris Burke, Bentley Alsup, David Driscoll, Andrew Fitzgerald, and Dale Malloy. Model Rocketry Program Completion: Cadets Chris Brault and David Driscoll. Color Guard Members: Cadets Chris Brault, Chris

Burke, Dale Malloy, Bentley Alsup, and Jackson Meismer. Cadet Advisory Council Appointments: Cadets Chris Brault and Jackson Meismer. New Member recognition: Cadet Austin Hardy. Senior Member certificates of

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appreciation: 2nd Lt. Russ Westburg, Lt. Col. Pete Graf, and Capt. Don Morton. Cadet Jackson Meismer was promoted Cadet Airman 1st Class, and Cadet Bentley Alsup was promoted to Senior Airman. Finally, Major Ebelt presented certificates of appreciation to guests Col. and Maj. Van Hoven, and State Director Joe Macklin.



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CAP MEMBERS UNITED IN MATRIMONY

Major Rob Hoffman and 1st Lieutenant Shelly Johnson were married Friday, December 9. The ceremony was conducted at the Butte, Montana, Airport at 6:30 that evening. The wedding party included (l. to r., below): Sgt. Elmer Rodriques, Chaplain 1st Lt. Jeff Jones, 1st Lt. Mike Avery, the groom and bride, Cadet 2nd Lt. Lexi Lund, Cadet Staff Sgt. Casey Johnson, Cadet Master Sgt. Nicole Bauer, and in front center, future Cadet Cameron Johnson. The bride is Lewis and Clark Composite Squadron commander, Helena, MT, and the groom serves the squadron as Leadership Officer, Recruiting and Retention Officer, and Special Advisor to the Commander. The Hoffmans will reside in Helena.



CAPTAIN PAUL TWEDEN PRESENTED WITH GROVER LOENING AWARD

During the closing assembly at the Lewistown Sar-X this December 10, Montana Wing Vice Commander Capt. Paul Tweden (l.) was presented with his Grover Loening award. Montana Wing Commander Col. Jan Van Hoven (r.) was the presenting officer. The Grover Loening Award is given to Civil Air Patrol members who complete Level III of the Senior Member Professional Development Program. It recognizes those members who have dedicated themselves to leadership and personal development in the CAP. This award was first given in 1964 and honors the late Grover Loening. A noted aviation pioneer, he was the first civilian member of the National Air and Space Museum's Advisory Board.



Capt. Paul Tweden (l.) was presented the Grover Loening Award by Montana Wing Commander Col. Jan Van Hoven.

LEWIS & CLARK COMPOSITE SQUADRON TO COMPETE IN TEAM AMERICA ROCKETRY CHALLENGE

A contingent of Lewis and Clark Composite Squadron cadets will compete for their share of \$60,000 in prizes in the world's largest rocketry contest. Team #4665 members and advisors will be intensively working on the CAP Rocketry Program as they lay the educational and experiential groundwork they will need to design and implement their entry to the contest. The contest is sponsored by Aerospace Industries Association, a consortium of 110 regular member and 160 associate member aerospace industry corporations, representing all major aerospace manufacturers and suppliers. The cadet team's challenge is to design, build, and fly a model rocket that carries one raw egg to an altitude as close to 800 feet as possible and stays airborne for as close to 45 seconds as possible. Of a maximum of 750 teams completing nationally, the 100 best teams will be invited to fly their entry at the national finals in Virginia on May 20. To learn more about the competition, visit www.rocketcontest.org. We will be bringing you updates on the team's progress in the months to come.



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THIRTEEN BRAVE WINTER FOR LEWISTOWN SARX



Lt. Col. Pete Graf briefs 2nd Lt. Roger Miller and Capt. Gil Johnson prior to a training flight.

This past weekend, a dozen Montana Wing members and State Director Joe Macklin practiced Emergency Services skills at the Lewistown, MT, airport. Members from Lewis & Clark, Central Montana, Beartooth, Skyhawks, and Montana Wing Squadrons participated. Personnel conducted 2 ELT searches, training on the Becker DF radio, and completed grid search and pilot training flights. In all, CAP planes flew 13.7 hours on 9 sorties. All communications were accomplished using the recently installed Mt. Baldy repeater.



Forty-Echo climbs into the winter sky on the first sortie of the day.

MONTANA WING CALENDAR

January 14, 2006

Wing Staff Meeting, Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls, MT

Jan 16-21, 2006

G-1000 Cessna Factory Training in Independence, KS

January 20-22, 2006

Surratt Memorial Winter Survival Clinic, Helena, MT

Sponsored by Montana Aeronautics Division, and partially funded by the Surratt Memorial, this course is taught by acclaimed survival experts Skip Stoffel and Paul Green of Emergency Response International, Cashmere, WA. It includes classroom and outdoor overnight sessions.

Schedule and registration form at www.mtwg.cap.gov

Jan 22, 2006

Delivery of Cessna 182T (Glass Cockpit) to MTWG

February 10-12, 2006

SAR/DR/HLS/CD Training, Location TBA

February 25-26, 2006

Wing Cadet Competition, Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls, MT

March 2-4, 2006

Montana Aviation Conference, Helena, MT

Montana Wing will have a display booth, offer Fly-a-Teacher program.

AE Director Major Kaye Ebelt will lead AE seminar.

Printable Registration Form at www.mtwg.cap.gov

March 10-12, 2006

SAR/DR/HLS/CD Training, TBA

March 18-19, 2006

Airman Leadership School, Location TBA

April 28-30, 2006

Montana Wing Conference, Billings, MT

Printable Registration Form at www.mtwg.cap.gov

May 5-7, 2006

MT National Check Pilot School Course, Helena, MT

May 13-14, 2006

Wing Leadership School, TBA

June 9-11, 2006

Montana Guided SAR, Location: TBA

June 18-24, 2006

Montana Wing Cadet Encampment, Fort Harrison or Malmstrom AFB

July 15, 2006

Quarterly Wing Staff Meeting, Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls, MT

July 22-23, 2006

SAR/DR/HLS/CD and Wing Picnic, Valier, MT



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MONTANA WING COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

by Montana Wing Communications Officer 2nd Lt. Russ Westberg

As most of you know, we now have a repeater up and operating in Great Falls. The repeater is what is called a "Broad-Band Repeater." It will be replaced by the new Narrow Band Repeaters coming out in 2007 or perhaps sooner. This is the first CAP VHF repeater in Montana. While most other wings have been enjoying the benefits of repeaters for some time, Montana has not. Last weekend the repeater had its first real test in use with the Lewistown SAREX. **It was a success.** Those that participated gave reports that they were able to communicate through the repeater from Great Falls to Lewistown. From now on, when flying into Great Falls for wing events you will be able to put out a call and give your ETA into Great Falls and there will be someone there to pick you up. I am sure that someone will monitor the frequency to assist you in whatever you need. Capt. Tom Burton intends to run a VHF net weekly for those interested and who wish to participate.

We have some problems to iron out but nothing of any consequence. One problem is understanding the radios we have and their usage in the overall program. The repeater just adds a little more confusion to this. I will attempt to clear up any misunderstandings in the usage of these radios. If you have problems or need clarification on any of this, please contact me and we'll get it straightened out.

First off we have the repeater. The channel to bring up the repeater is channel 12, which has a designator of Papa Bravo, or PB. It has been found, however, that some radios were programmed with a different channel number for PB. Therefore you may have to check out the channels to make sure the PB is on channel 12 and not some other frequency. It really does not matter so long as you are on PB.

We have the good old standby Motorola Sabre portables. These are only good for Simplex usage: Simplex means that you transmit and receive on the same frequency, unlike the repeater, which receives on one frequency and then re-transmits on a different frequency and at a much higher power. At the present time we do not have a replacement for the Sabres so we'll be using them for some time. Many of these are in need of new batteries; recently I requested the squadrons to check out these Sabres and let me know if they need new batteries. New batteries will only be supplied to squadrons who request them.

We have five Icom Portable that have been reprogrammed to work with the repeater. These are at the present time assigned to Great Falls so they can use them with the repeater.

Then we have the ISR, "Inter Squad Radios." These are UHF and will not communicate with any other radios we have. They are meant to be used with ground teams, flight lines, and communications between units or persons of very short range. They are great for training and in close work.

We have one EF Johnson Portable that I understood to be the replacement for the Sabres. However, that turns out to not be the case. National issued these to be used with ground teams and they have the capability to work with a repeater. However, they were issued based upon the number of ground teams in the Wing, and Montana only reported one, and we have been issued one of the two "table of allowances per ground team" radios, which means we are at 50% of our allowance. We may or may not get another in the spring. I don't understand the logic of having one radio, but that's the way it is. I recommend that we immediately take steps to increase our number of ground teams, and then I'll put in again for more of these EF Johnson Portables.

During SAREXs that are held within the range of the Great Falls Repeater, we will use the repeater for Air to Ground, Ground to Ground communications. This will eliminate the need for High Birds. However, remember that VHF is line-of-sight and that if you're on the other side of the hill or mountain, you may not be able to bring up the repeater. You will find that the reliability of communication using the repeater will far surpass that of the simplex radios we have been using. Don't be surprised that you will be able to bring up the repeater from as far away as 100 miles from an aircraft.

This training in using the repeater will prepare us for using the new Narrow Bands Repeaters that are coming. Please call or email if you have any questions.